



A Chapter of The American Institute of Architects
370 James Street, Suite 402, New Haven, CT 06513
203-865-2195 FAX: 203-562-5378
aiainfo@aiact.org, www.aiact.org

March 17, 2014

Senator Coleman, Representative Fox, Distinguished Members of the Judiciary Committees

Good Morning, my name is Diane Harp Jones. I am pleased to be the CEO/EVP for the Connecticut Chapter of the American Institute of Architects. AIA Connecticut has served as the professional association for architects in the State of Connecticut since 1903, some 111 years. In addition to being one of the longest established chapters within the country, we are proud to boast of having one of the largest and most prestigious memberships. We are generally the tenth or eleventh largest chapter in the American Institute of Architects and we include in our membership, architects having national and international reputations, being highly respected by their peers.

I am here to please ask for your support of Raised Bill 5570, *An Act Concerning the Applicability of Statutes of Limitations to Actions Brought by the State or a Political Subdivision of the State*.

The Supreme Court decision in Connecticut vs. Lombardo Bros, decided in late 2013 has had a seriously detrimental impact on our member firms and on all those within the design and construction industry in the State. Many of our member firms rely, and in this recent economic climate, even depend on State work for their livelihood. They are now fearful of the risk they are incurring. The State is no doubt seeing this concern of risk translating into the increasing of fees for professional services as this risk now has no time limit. Many of our firms are questioning whether they should engage in working with the State. As you will hear from several of our members, as the economic climate continues to improve we would anticipate that the number of firms willing to work on State projects with indefinite liability will decrease. This detrimental effect will ripple throughout the design and construction industry.

AIA Connecticut represents approximately 425 member firms employing approximately 2,000 Connecticut residents. Architecture practices are the linchpin that insures a healthy design and construction industry within our State. The burden of this Court decision is placing an unreasonable business liability on each of those design and construction businesses doing work with the State. We ask that you protect a culture of businesses being welcomed and supported in Connecticut by voting favorably to adopt this Raised Bill.

Please help us maintain the quality of excellence in the design and construction of our State building inventory. Please provide a fair and reasonable business climate in which our members may continue to excel in the work they do.

We ask for your support of RB 5570.

Thank you.

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